



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0299

Proposal 586 RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION

Statement for
Con Con Committee on Environment, Agriculture
Conservation and Land
Public Hearing 9 August 1978

by
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

Proposal 586 would amend Article VIII of the Constitution to include certain provisions regarding the regulation of water pollution. This statement on the proposal does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The State already has under section 1 and section 5, the power to regulate water pollution, this power has been vested by the Legislature in the Department of Health. This Department has issued extensive regulations relating to water pollution, and there appears to be no limits to the reasonable water pollution regulatory powers of the Department.

The present regulations apply to practically all effluents, though they do not necessarily require artificial control of the pollution introduced by all if the pollution is warranted. The proposal fails to recognize that allowance of water pollution is in the public interest if the alternatives of polluting the air, polluting the land, committing additional natural and economic resources to the controls, or cessation of beneficial activities are less desirable than the reductions of pollution.

The purpose of the amendment would therefore not be wise.